Mr. President: I do not understand how the war conditions affect Panchayat elections.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* They say there is a general depression.

Mr. President: In British India, there are various other considerations on which they have stopped the elections, not merely the economic depression consequent on the war and things like that. There are various political considerations also as a result of which they have postponed the elections. But those reasons do not affect the State. I do not think even in the matter of Panchayat elections we need blindly follow what has been done in British India.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* The Defence of India Act has been made applicable to Cochin also.

Mr. President: I do not think these issues come under Panchayat elections.

PORATHISSERI PANCHAYAT—REPRESENTATION REGARDING RURAL LIBRARY

207. Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have got representations from the Porathisseri Panchayat for sanctioning a rural library for them;

(*b*) will Government be pleased to provide one for this Panchayat at least next year?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This will be considered.

SRIMOOLANAGARAM PANCHAYAT COURT—OCCASIONS FOR NON-HOLDING OF

208. Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) on how many occasions during the years 1114 and 1115 the Srimoolanagaram Panchayat court was not held—

(*i*) for want of a quorum;

(*ii*) owing to the absence of the President and Senior Judge;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly